

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Since the start of the academic year, all Year 7 students have been studying French in mixed ability sets. Over the next few weeks the students will be assessed in a range of language skills and the groups will then be re-arranged on the basis of these assessments.

Around two-thirds of the year group will be allocated a second language (either German or Spanish) while the remaining third will continue to study French for all their language lessons. The dual linguists will have three periods of French per fortnight and three periods of their second language.

The decision about which students are allocated a second language rests with the school. We will also decide which second language (German or Spanish) is allocated to each child. This is in line with our Curriculum Policy which can be found on the school website:

<https://gillotts.org.uk/about-the-school/school-policies>

While it would be good to be able to provide free choice and allow parents to choose the second language, the constraints of our timetable and staffing availability mean that this is not possible.

However, we are aware that a small number of Year 7 students may be from homes where either German or Spanish are spoken on a daily basis. There may also be a situation where an identified special educational need means that studying a specific language is more appropriate. If either of these situations applies to your child, and you would like them to follow one of these as their second language (if they are allocated to a dual linguist group), please can you let me know by Friday 2nd December.

I will then get in touch with you to discuss this request in more detail. It is important to note that these will be the only grounds where a parent may be able to influence the allocation of the second language for the reasons mentioned above. We cannot take into consideration a situation where you may have a holiday home in particular country; are planning to move there in a few years or have relatives living in either Germany or Spain.

My e-mail address is: enewbold@gillotts.org.uk

We will be in contact again in the new year to let you know whether your child is being allocated a second language or not (and, if so, which language).

Yours faithfully,

Dr Newbold
Deputy Head